The School of Learning;

Neceſſary for Families, as well

As a guide for Children.

Wherein is contained Prayers for every day in the week, both for Morning and Evening, and for the King, Queen, and Royal Family, and other Occaſions.

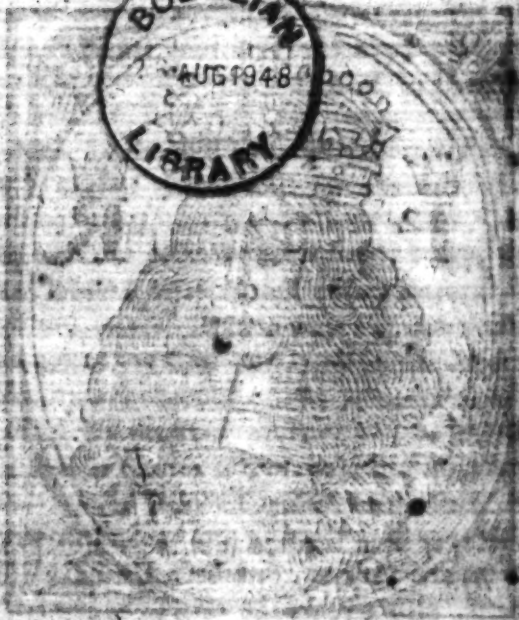
Alſo certain Graces before and after Meat.

A ſhort Catechiſm for Children, very profitable for all that make uſe thereof.

With a ſhort Prayer for a Private Family.

The 57 Edition.

...nted for *T. Paſſinger*, and are to be ſold by *J. Deacon* ...the *Angel* in *Guilt-ſpur-ſtreet* near *Newgate*. 1687.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The School of Learning.

1 *John* 5. 14, 15.

And this is that assurance that we have in him, that if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us, and if we know that he heareth us, whatsoever we ask we know that we have the Petitions which we have desired of him.

LIttle Child, or whosoever thou art that readest this Book, before I come to the chief matter contain'd therein, I shall beg of thee to prepare thy heart to Prayer, then seek to the Lord in thy Prayer, and no doubt but what thou desirest in thy Petitions, the Lord in his due time will yield thee a comfortable return, to thy Souls Happiness and Content: And before I come to shew thee what thou oughtest to pray for, I shall first shew thee in a few words what Prayer is.

Prayer is a serious and devout lifting up our hearts to God, in the Name of Jesus Christ, either to crave things needful, or to give thanks for mercies received, Rom. 8. 26.

The Spirit also helpeth our Infirmities, for we know not how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit it self maketh request for us, with sighs that cannot be expressed.

A Prayer for Sabbath-day in the morning.

Psal. 119. v. 170. *O let my Supplications come before thee, deliver me according to thy word.*

O Lord God, Almighty and ever-living Father, Lord of the Sabbath, and Fountain of all wisdom, I do not present these my supplications before thee in mine own righteousness, but in thy great mercies, in the which I only believe and put my confidence: O Lord, I beseech thee most mercifully to look upon me, who am by reason of sin, a most vile and wicked creature, it is thou O Lord, and thou alone, canst make me clean: Therefore I must cast my self wholly on thee, and thy Son Jesus Christ; O Lord, I have great cause to extol and magnifie thy glorious Name, for preserving me this night past. Thou hast kept me from the sleep of death, blessed be thy Name for it, thou hast made me to rest quietly under the shadow of thy wings; and now Lord, I beseech thee to protect me this day with thy mighty hand, from all dangers both of soul and body, mortifie and kill in me all carnal lusts, unlawful pleasures, and evil affections, that they may

have

have no dominion over me, but O Lord, give me a contrite heart, to bewail the Sins of my youth, and let me find comfort in thy mercy, for the pardoning of my sins; Sanctifie my heart, O Lord, that I may sanctifie this thy holy day; make me to honour thee as a Creatour, love thee as a Redeemer, and hope and trust in thee as my only Saviour: O Lord let me not speak my own words, nor think my own thoughts on this thy day, but let me spend those few hours which thou hast taken to thy self, to thy Glory, that in the end my poor soul may reap the comfort of it. O Lord send down thy holy Spirit unto me, to bear witness that I am thy Child, and shall be heir of thy Kingdom with Christ Jesus; for whose sake I beseech thee to grant those things which I have prayed for: Amen.

An Evening Prayer for the Sabbath.

O Eternal, ever-living, and ever-loving Lord God, from the bottom of my heart I have great cause to give thee continual thanks for the mercies of this day, thou hast preserved me by thy power, and thou hast dealt bountifully with my soul, in that thou hast been pleased to refresh it with thy Heavenly word; O Lord, with the Dew of thy Grace, water thy Garden which I have heard and received, that I may grow thereby. O Lord forgive the evil which I have committed this day, I have done those

things which I ought not to have done, and I have neglected those things which I ought to have done; Lord give me a heart to repent for every sin which I have committed against thee in this thy day. O Lord stretch out thy hand over me, and preserve me this night from all evil, preserve my body from death, and my soul from damnation: Compass me about on every side with thy Grace, guide me in every thing that I shall undertake; let me undertake no thing to the dishonour of thy most holy Name, but in all things to demean my self here, that when I come to dye, I may be assured to attain a being in thy Kingdom. O Lord grant all these mercies to me, and whatsoever else thou seest needful for me, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Prayer for Munday Morning.

HOly Lord God, I thy poor unworthy creature do here prostrate my self before thee this morning, humbly intreating thee to look down with thy tender compassion on me: pardon my sins, O Lord, and forgive mine iniquities, blot out my transgressions, and let them not come to remembrance with thee any more, Lord as I have great cause to bewail my sins, so I have great cause to admire and adore thee, for all thy loving kindness unto me, more especially, for preserving me this night past: O Lord, thou hast given me a quiet nights rest,

blessed be thy Holy Name for it: Thou hast raised my body from the sleep of Death, Lord, raise my soul from the sleep of Sin, and now in the beginning of the Week, let me go about my Vocation thou hast set me in, with carefulness; and let me undertake nothing that is sinful, but in every thing let me have an eye to thee, so then I shall be certain every thing which I take in hand shall prosper: Lord thou knowest what is needful for me, I beseech thee supply all my wants in that Fountain of mercy the Lord Jesus Christ, in whom and for whom my soul shall bless and magnifie thy Holy Name, from this time forth and for evermore.

An Evening Prayer for Monday.

ALmighty God, Lord of Heaven and earth, thou who inhabitest Eternity, whose dwelling is in the highest Heaven, yet thou dost condescend to look down with a tender eye of pity and compassion upon poor sinful dust and ashes. O Lord, thou dost give infinite occasion to poor Sinners day by day to renew the Praises due to thy holy Name: O that I had a Heart and a Tongue to set forth the Glories of thy Mercies, which thou dost plentifully bestow upon me. Thou dost every hour, O Lord, give fresh occasions to me to be more active and more diligent in pursuing those things which are good: O! that I could learn my

my life here, that I might be sure of Eternity hereafter. Blessed be thy name, O Lord, for this days mercies; Lord keep and preserve me this night, when I go to lye down to sleep, let me be so prepared, that if it were my last night I should sleep in this body, yet I might have assurance in thee: Lord keep me from all evil thoughts in the longest night, from all frightful Dreams which too often do disturb poor carnal flesh, when I awake, O Lord, let me with Holy David meditate on thy word, and so no harm can come unto me. Finally, I beseech thee O Lord, to guide and defend me this night, that in the morning when I arise, I may render my Morning sacrifice of praise and Thanksgiving unto thy holy Name, for all thy unspeakable Mercies which thou dost day and night bestow upon me; and all I beg upon the account of thy dear Son and my Saviour, in whose name and words, I conclude these my imperfect Prayers, saying as he himself hath taught me, Our Father, &c.

A Prayer for Tuesday Morning.

HOly Lord God, great is thy Name, and greatly above all others to be praised, but for poor sinful dust and ashes to dare to adventure to come before so great a God, is high presumption; yet Lord, I thy poor creature, in and through the merits of Jesus Christ, my

my Saviour, do with all boldness, cast my self at the Throne of thy grace, humbly imploring and most heartily begging for the assistance of thy holy Spirit. O Lord I give thee humble and hearty thanks for the preservation of me this night past. O Lord though I do not deserve the favours from thee, yet for thy Sons sake, if it be thy blessed will, continue them to me; I beseech thee, O Lord, as thou hast hitherto, so continue still a blessing to my undertakings, and make me to continue faithful to thee, to the end of my days, that when I do depart this life, I may be an heir of the Kingdom of Heaven: This I beg in the name of thy Son, and my Saviour, Jesus Christ the righteous, to whom be ascribed, as is most due, all glory, honour and praise, both now and for evermore: Amen.

An Evening Prayer for Tuesday.

MOst great and most gracious, incomprehensible Lord God, I thy poor unworthy Creature, am now about to offer up these my poor unworthy Prayers unto thy Divine Majesty, humbly and mercifully beseeching thee to pardon the sins which I have committed against thy Divine Majesty this day: Many and great have the sins of my Youth been, and in number even as the Sands of the Sea shore, yet Lord thy Mercies do far surpass my sins: O Lord give me a heart to trust in thee,

give me an understanding heart, that I may see the error of my former Life, and Repent from the bottom of my heart, of all the evil I have committed against thee; and holy Lord as I have great cause to bewail my sins, so I have far greater cause to bless thy name for all the unspeakable mercies which thou dost daily bestow on me; more especially for the mercies of this day; thou hast preserved me in Life and Health, blessed be thy name for it: If it be thy blessed will watch over me this night, let thy holy Angels guard me, and let thy holy hand protect me, and when I awake from sleep, let my meditations be on thy goodness towards me; and all this I beg at thy hand, mercifully beseeching thee to be a strong Tower of defence to me, and all for Jesus Christ his sake, thy Son and my Saviour and Redeemer, from this time forth and for evermore: Amen.

A Prayer for Wednesday morning.

BLessed and praised be thy Name, O Lord God, for all thy unspeakable Mercies, which thou day by day, and night by night, dost freely bestow upon poor sinners! O Lord, what am I, that thou shouldest so much as once cast a glimpse of favour on me? I am a poor worm, a frail Creature, dust and ashes, nay more, a grievous sinner; yet O Lord, thou hast compassion on me: Thou hast mercifully preserved me this last Night. I bless thy Name

for

to it: Lord keep me still, be thou a guide to me along, and be thou an overseer over me to overlook me, so as to keep me from deadly sin: let my heart, O Lord, be found right in understanding nothing that is evil; set a watch before my Mouth, that my tongue may utter no unclean thing; so guide and direct me in all things that what I do, I may do to the Glory of thy Name, and the comfort of my Soul; and all this I beg in the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord: Amen.

An Evening Prayer for Wednesday.

O Lord God, Father of Heaven and Earth, give in fresh supplies of thy Spirit to thy poor Creature, that I may daily and hourly praise thy Name for all the loving kindness which thou dost every day bestow on me: Thou art a God of Comfort and Consolation, thou hast been my guide all the day long, now I beseech thee to be my Guardian all the night; make me to rest quietly, and when drowsie sleep banisheth away, set my heart at work to meditate upon thy mercies, which in abundant manner thou dost bestow daily on me: O Lord, awake my Soul, and let Christ enlighten me with the beams of thy Mercy: Teach me to do that which is right, make me to hate that which is evil: O keep me in thy paths that my feet slip not; hear me and have Mercy on me, knit my heart unto thee, that I may fear thy

Name.

Name. Plant me by the Water-side, and let me bring forth fruit to thy honour and glory, and to the comfort of my poor Soul, for Jesus Christ his sake: Amen.

A Morning Prayer for Thursday.

ALmighty and most gracious God, I give thee hearty and humble thanks, in that thou hast been graciously pleased to give quiet rest to my poor sinful body: Lord if it be thy blessed will, give spiritual rest to my poor soul. O Lord thou hast commanded in thy holy word, that none should be idle; but that we should be always occupied in doing good: I most humbly beseech thee that thine eyes may attend upon me daily, to defend me, comfort and govern me in all my labours and undertakings; let me bestow this day, and the residue of my life according to thy most blessed will and pleasure, setting thee always before mine eyes, always living in thy fear, and working that which may be acceptable in thy sight. This I beseech thee to grant me, and what else thou seest needful for me, for Jesus Christ his sake my only Saviour and Redeemer: Amen.

An Evening Prayer for Thursday.

MOst merciful God & ever-living Father, from which doth distill so many blessings on me: Give me an understanding heart, and

let

my lips shew forth thy praises: O what a fatherly care hast thou had over me; thou hast kept me from all dangers both of body and soul, thou hast given me food and raiment, and health; but above all, thou hast given the choicest of all thy mercies, the Lord Jesus: Give me a heart that by faith I may lay hold on him, and on the blessed promises thou hast made to all that believe in thee, and in thy Son Jesus Christ: I beseech thee O Lord, grant me the guard of thy good Angels to keep me this night, evermore: And grant when I shall sleep in death, my body may rest temporally, and my soul may live with thee eternally, to thy Glory and my comfort, all which I beg at thy hands, for the Merits of Jesus Christ my Saviour: Amen.

A Prayer for Friday Morning.

O Most merciful Father, seeing thou hast of thy great Mercy vouchsafed me a quiet passage away of this night in rest to my body; grant I beseech thee, that I may bestow this day and the relidue of my life wholly to thy service, so that all my thoughts, words and works, may redound wholly to the glory of thy name, a good example of others. Lord illuminate my understanding with the brightness of thy holy Spirit, direct me in the ways of righteousness, so that whatsoever I do, my special care may be to walk in thy fear all the days of my life, and now

Lord

Lord strengthen me against all the temptations of Satan, keep me from all ill, and deliver me from all perils and dangers whatsoever: I beseech thee, O Lord, receive me into thy protection; and then I need not fear any ill. Lord make me to go on in good, and hate all evil: Forgive me all my sins, O Lord, and blot out all my transgressions, and let the remaining part of my life be spent to thy glory, and to the comfort of my own turmoiled and never-dying soul: Where my weak petitions, O Lord, grant upon the account of thy Son, through whom I further call upon thee, saying as he hath taught us: Our Father, &c.

An Evening Prayer for Friday.

O Eternal God and most Merciful Father, who this day, and all the time of my life hitherto, hast most graciously defended and preserved my Soul and Body, and of thy love kindness hast most plentifully provided for me a poor sinner, not only in giving me a portion of thy Creatures, but also in that plentiful Redemption which thy most dear Son Christ Jesus hath purchased for me, grant O Lord, unto me the assistance of thy Grace and Holy Spirit, though my body, O Lord, takes its natural rest, Lord knit my soul to thee, for in thee is the only true rest to be found. O Lord, let my soul rejoyce in thee, for in thee alone is

Sal-

Salvation to be found: O Lord let thy mighty hand, and out stretched arm be still my defence, thy mercy and loving kindness in Christ Jesus thy dear Son, my Salvation, thy true and holy word my instruction, thy Grace and Holy Spirit my comfort and consolation, unto the end, and in the end, through Jesus Christ my Lord and only Savidur: Amen.

A Morning Prayer for Saturday.

O Immortal and ever-living God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, I thy poor unworthy Servant, desire and beg of thee to accept of my Morning Sacrifice of Praise and Thanksgiving due unto thee, and thee alone, that thou hast protected me, and defended me from all the evil that might have come upon me: Thou hast refreshed my weary Body this night past: I humbly intreat thee yet to add a further Blessing unto me, that thou wilt be pleased to rouse up my Soul from the sluggish nature of sin and evil, that I may walk in thy Commandments with all chearfulness, this day and evermore: Pardon O Lord, all forepast evil abominations of my life and conversation, cut off the Root, Leaves, and Boughs of the evil Tree of my corrupt heart, put away all Lust, Doubting, and Denying of thy Providence. Give me a sure Hope, and a Gracious Pardon of my Sins, and of Everlasting Life, that so long as I am in this

World,

Word, I may have a taste and a feeling of it in my heart. O Lord, I beseech thee, to send a blessing upon my labours, prepare my heart in all my business, that I may do it to the honour of thy name, and go forward in thy fear, and finish it with thy blessing, that whatsoever I shall do may prosper: Grant this, O Lord, for Jesus Christ his sake; Amen.

An Evening Prayer for Saturday.

BLessing and Honour be given unto thee, O Lord, most high and gracious God, for thy goodness bestowed on me this day, this whole week and all my whole life, thy Mercies have never yet failed me; O Lord, give me a thankful heart never to forget thy loving kindness towards me. I beseech thee, O Lord, to fulfil my God, forgive me all my sins that I have committed against thee; and grant for the future that I may serve thee in holiness and newness of life. Sanctifie me with thy Grace, and send down thy holy spirit into me to guide and direct me in all truth. And now O Lord, the day is almost spent, and the night is at hand, bless me I beseech thee, this night, and take me into thy custody; save me waking, and keep me sleeping, that I may both sleep and wake in peace and safety. O let the shadow of thy wings be my cover, the Holy Ghost my [illegible], and thy Holy Name my Rock and [illegible] against all evil. Prepare me, O Lord,

for

for the day following, the Holy Sabbath, thy Holy day of rest, and so unlock the Mysteries of thy Holy Word unto me, that I may therein see the things of thy Glorious Majesty; learn the Lessons of my own Duty, and rightly understand the certainty of my Mortality, and the uncertainty of the time when Death will seize upon me: That I may strive to live in thy fear, and dye in thy favour, and be made partaker of those Heavenly joys, which thou hast prepared for the Saints to all Eternity. O Lord, grant these my desires, and what else thou knowest needful for me, for Jesus Christ his sake, my only Advocate and Redeemer, concluding my imperfect Prayers into that most absolute form of Prayer which he himself hath taught us in his Holy Gospel, saying, Our Father, &c.

A Prayer for the Kings Majesty, and the Royal Family.

O Almighty God, King of Kings, and Lord of Lords, High and Mighty Creatour, Ruler and Governour of all things, thou who dost from thy Throne behold all the Inhabitants of the whole earth: Thou who Rulest Princes as well as the meanest persons on the Earth, I most humbly beseech thee to look down upon our most Gracious Soveraign Lord, King JAMES; Lord endue His Royal Heart with the Wisdom of Solomon, make him a

joyful Prince to all his Subjects, let him be a Protector for all his people, that in truth and sincerity do fear thy Name: Bless him, O Lord, in his Royal Consort Queen Mary, and all the Royal Family: Bless him in all his Relations, make them Instruments of good to this Kingdom whereof we are Members: O Lord be good to them, and to all thy people all the World over: And all this we beg for the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ, Amen.

Here followeth certain Graces before and after Meat.

Grace before Meat.

GRacious Lord God, thou dost plentifully provide for us who are poor Sinners: we bless thy name for it; Lord as thou feedst our Bodies with these thy Creatures, so satisfie our Souls with thy Heavenly Food, and all for the sake of Jesus Christ our only Saviour, Amen.

Another before Meat.

O Heavenly Father, and God of all Consolation, thou dost take care to provide food and Raiment for our weak bodies, Lord give us hearts to look after something for the Nourishment of our Souls, and for these and all other Mercies, we have double cause to render all Glory and Praise to thy Holy Name, both now and for evermore, Amen.

Ano-

Another before Meat.

GRacious God, in all our undertakings let us think upon thee the Creatour of all things, let us praise thy name in an especial manner, for all the mercies that thou at this time bestowest upon us. Bless us in our natural Food, but especially in our Spiritual, for Jesus Christ his sake. Amen.

Grace after Meat.

WE thank thee most Merciful Father for all thy loving kindness bestowed on us, more especially for the mercies of this day, and that thou hast plentifully refreshed our weak Bodies: Lord strengthen our Souls into thy Heavenly Grace, and all for the Honour of thy well beloved Son, and our only Saviour Jesus Christ our Lord: Amen.

Another after Meat.

GLorious Lord God, we return thee all humble and hearty thanks for these thy Fatherly Mercies, in feeding of our natural bodies; Lord we beg the like kindness for our poor Souls, that when we have finished this our natural life, we may enjoy a Being in Heaven, and all for the sake of Jesus Christ, Amen.

Another after Meat.

THe God of all Glory and Power, who hath Created us, and by the Death of thy dear Son, hath Redeemed us, and hast at this time mercifully fed us, for these and all other mer-

cies, let thy Name be blessed and praised both now and for evermore. Amen.

A short Catechism for Children, very necessary for a Private Family.

Quest. WHo made thee?

Answ. God,

Quest. What is God?

Answ. He is Almighty, Maker and Governour of all things.

Q. Wherefore did the Lord make thee?

A. To serve him.

Q. How oughtest thou to serve Him?

A. As he hath appointed in his Laws.

Q. Which be they?

A. The keeping of the ten Commandments as they are appointed in the Twentieth Chapter of Exodus.

Q. Dost thou think thou art able to fulfil these Commandments?

A. No, Though I do all that I can, yet by Reason of Sin, I am a daily breaker and transgressour of those Laws.

Q. What dost thou then deserve for the breach of these Laws?

A. The Wrath of God, which is the Destruction of Body and Soul.

Q. How then wilt thou escape this punishment?

A. Only by the Death of Jesus Christ.

Q. What dost thou believe concerning Jesus Christ.

A. I believe he is the only begotten of the Father, the Eternal Son of God, and able to save Sinners.

Q. What hath Christ done for thee?

A. He dyed for me.

Q. If Christ were God, how could he dye?

A. Christ was both God and Man, as he was God he could not dye, but being Man he dyed for my Sins, and rose again for my Redemption.

Q. Are all then saved by the Death of Christ?

A. No, only such are saved as by a lively faith lay hold on him.

Q. What is a lively Faith?

A. A true believe and faithful relying on the promises of God, and a stedfast belief that Christ dyed as well for my Sins as any other, if I through Faith do lay hold on him.

Q. What is the sum of your Faith?

A. The Creed.

Q. How camest thou by this Faith?

A. Inwardly by the Holy Ghost, and outwardly by the Preaching of the Word.

Q. How is that Faith increased and made strong in us?

A. By hearing the Word Preached, and using the Sacraments.

Q. What be the Sacraments?

A. Sacraments be outward Signs, Ordained

vained by God, and are left as seals and pledges of these benefits of our Salvation, which we receive in Christ to strengthen our Faith.

M. How many Sacraments are there?

A. Two, Baptism, and the Lords Supper.

B. What profit hast thou by Baptism?

A. I believe by Baptism, my sins are forgiven me; for as Water doth wash the filth off my body, so I believe the blood of Christ, being sprinkled upon my Soul by a lively Faith doth wash away my sins.

M. What profit hast thou by the Lords Supper?

A. As I receive the Bread and Wine into my Body, to become wholly mine, so I believe that my Soul receiveth Christ Jesus, with his Death and Righteousness, to the sealing up of my Salvation.

M. Seeing they that eat unworthily, eat and drink their own damnation, how shall I do to prepare my self for the right receiving of it?

A. 1. Examine thy self whether thou art in the Faith of Jesus Christ or no.

2. Whether thou findest thy heart truly grieved for sin, with inward hating and loathing thereof.

3. If any offences be between thee and others, that you reconcile your self unto them, and forgive them as Christ hath forgiven thee.

Q. Is not Prayer a special means to increase our Faith?

A. Yea, it is a special help.

Q. How oughtest thou to Pray?

A. Only to God in the name of Jesus Christ.

Q. What form of Prayer usest thou most?

A. That which the Lord himself hath taught us; Our Father, &c.

Q. How understandest thou this Prayer?

A. This Prayer is divided into six Petitions, three of them belong to Gods Glory, the other three belong to us, wherein is contained all things that are necessary for Soul and body.

A short Prayer for a Family.

O Eternal God, and most Merciful Father, which giveth to them that want, and comfortest those that are in distress, and forgivest them that truly Repent; we thy poor Creatures sue unto thee for Grace, hoping in thy mercy towards us: Keep us, O Lord, this day, forgive us all our sins in the Blood of thy Son; teach us to be sorry for them, and separate them from us, who would separate us from thee: O Lord, make us to hunger and thirst after Righteousness, that our care may be to know thy Truth; and let us so profit in Christs School, that in Sickness we may find Patience, in Prison joy, in Poverty contentment, and in all things hope: Prosper O Lord,

our

our Labour and Undertakings, that in wh
undertake, we may do nothing that is sinfu
evil, and let loving affections grow one tow
another: Let us all love our brethren and
for them, and they for us: Lord thou hast
manded that we should not only pray for our se
but for thine all the World over. Lord bless
Church in all places where ever it is dispers
distressed, be thou their refuge and defence.
look upon this sinful Nation wherein we live.
pray thee O Lord to bless our Soveraign
King James the II. our Gracious Queen M
Katharine the Queen Dowager; Their
Highnesses, Mary Princess of Orange, and
Princess Anne of Denmark, and all the R
Family. Lord bless the Faithful Minister
thy Word, give them Heavenly wisdom, that
may dispense the word in Righteousness to all
hear them. Lastly, O Lord, give a blessing to
poor Family, bless us from the highest to the
est, make us all thy servants, that so we may
joyce daily in thee our Saviour: Lord guide
thy truth, and direct us in thy paths, that
may never go astray. All these mercies we
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord, in wh
words we further call upon thee, saying, O
Father, &c.

FINIS.